

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS  
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'HISTOIRE DES RELIGIONS

IAHR

IAHR BULLETIN 17  
JULY 1991



Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear fellow-members of the IAHR,

At the time of writing preparations are at an advanced stage for the special conference of the IAHR to be held at Burlington, Vermont, in conjunction with our new affiliate the North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR). In the context of this conference the annual meeting of the Executive Committee will be convened and it is hoped that a quorum will be achieved.

The most important single point on the agenda will probably be the question of IAHR finances. Following on the election of a new treasurer last year (Prof. Armin Geertz) these questions were discussed in depth by him and the Secretary-general during a three-day meeting in Marburg in June this year, the purpose being to try to bring forward budgetary planning into IAHR policy development. Further details will be set before the Executive Committee. Of general interest is above all the question whether significant additional income can be generated so that key conferences and planning meetings can be financed more easily. Any suggestions along these lines will be greatly appreciated.

During the Burlington conference a meeting of the reconstituted Editorial Board of our journal Numen will take place, this Editorial Board being the same as the Executive Committee plus the appointed Editors Hans Kippenberg and Thomas Lawson. This is the first such meeting of the Editorial Board which is now planned as an annual event to take place at the same time as the meeting of the Executive Committee.

It is necessary for the undersigned once again to bring a personal note into this letter, in that it has a direct bearing on the functioning of IAHR correspondence. From September this year I shall be taking up the professorship in Religious Studies at Lancaster University (England) previously held by Professor Ninian Smart. Lancaster University, though relatively new, has a good tradition of association with the IAHR, for it hosted the XIIIth Congress in 1975. Moreover I am assured that the university, and its large department of Religious Studies, will provide a hospitable environment for the enactment of IAHR business including the dispatch of this bulletin. In view of this, please note the change of address indicated on the back inside cover.

with all best wishes  
Michael Pye

IAHR BULLETIN 17  
JULY 1991

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## Executive Committee of the IAHR

### Minutes of meeting held in Rome on 3.9.1990 at 9.30 a.m.

Members present. Present at the meeting were Professors Antes, Bianchi, Kim, Pye, Schimmel, Werblowsky and Wiebe, and Dr.H. van Lier. Professor Schimmel presided (as President of the IAHR). Apologies were received from Prof. Awolalu and Prof. Tamaru. It was already known to members that Professor Witold Tyloch had died a few weeks before the Congress.

1. Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a correct record.

2. Report by Secretary-General. The Secretary-General offered his report as printed in IAHR BULLETIN 15 (Special Congress Issue, September 1990) pages 3-7. One of the most important features of recent efforts had been the geographical extension of IAHR activities and the new affiliations to be proposed to the International Committee and the General Assembly.

3. Report by Treasurer. The Treasurer's report was circulated as an independent document preparatory to its presentation at the meeting of the International Committee to follow in two days' time. The financial situation was stable and in line with previous trends.

4. Future conference locations. These were discussed in some detail. Regional conferences were to be planned for Beijing (1991), Harare (1992) and Leningrad or Novosibirsk (1994). Special conferences were to be planned for Burlington (USA) (1991), Istanbul (1992) and Paris (1993). The new Executive Committee would meet at Burlington (1991), Harare (1992), Paris (1993), and Leningrad/Novosibirsk (1994). The International Committee would be convened at Paris in 1993, as already agreed provisionally by members of the Société Ernest Renan (the French affiliate to the IAHR).

5. XVII Congress. It was agreed that the Executive Committee would support the proposal to hold the XVII Congress in Mexico City in 1995.

6. Any other business. The electoral procedures to be followed at the forthcoming meeting of the International Committee were briefly reviewed.

Minutes compiled by Secretary-General (Michael Pye)



International Committee of the IAHR

Minutes of a meeting held in Rome on 5.9.1990 at 10.00 a.m.

1. Ascertainment of membership and observers.

Members present (in accordance with Article 4b of the constitution): A. Schimmel (presiding), Executive Committee members as follows: P. Antes, U. Bianchi, S. Kim, M. Pye, H. van Lier, Z. Werblowsky, D. Wiebe (apologies from J. Awolalu and N. Tamaru); for the affiliated associations as follows: P. Masefield (Australia), J. Ries (Belgium), M. Nefsky, J. Rousseau (Canada), A. Geertz, E. Sand (Denmark), N. Holm (Finland), J. Leclant (France), (P. Antes), H. Seiwert (Germany), I. Lovász (Hungary), G. Stroumsa, (Z. Werblowsky) (Israel), G. Gnoli, N. Scalpi (Italy), M. Araki, M. Sonoda (Japan), (S. Kim) (Korea), I. Garriga, Y. Gonzalez, (Mexico), L. Leertouwer, J. Platvoet (Netherlands), R. Abubakre (Nigeria), (Norway not represented), J. Margul, J. Szmyd (Poland), P. Maxwell (Southern Africa), J. Bergman, F. Olsson (Sweden), F. Stolz, J. Waardenburg (Switzerland), P. McKenzie, T. Thomas (UK), W. Oxtoby, N. Smart (USA); coopted member: M. Heerma van Voss (for Numen). The presence of the following as observers was proposed and approved: B. Daya (Indonesia), E. Masferrer (Mexico City, for ALER), L. Mitrohin and J. Pischik (USSR), L. Martin (USA, for NAASR), H. Kippenberg and T. Lawson (for Numen). /ci

It was reported with great regret that Professor Witold Tyloch, who would otherwise have been present, had passed away after a difficult illness, in Warsaw, shortly before the Congress. Special appreciation was expressed for his work in upholding the Polish affiliate to the IAHR, for his organisation of a Regional Conference in 1979 and a Special Conference in 1989, and for his service as a member of the Executive Committee, all during a period of extended political difficulty.

2. Cooption of further members.

In accordance with Constitution 4,b,iii and on the recommendation of the Executive Committee H. Kippenberg and T. Lawson, as recently appointed editors of Numen, were coopted to membership of the International Committee (thereby acquiring voting rights).

3. Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting (Marburg 18.6.1988), as distributed in IAHR BULLETIN 9, were approved as a correct record.

4. Report by Secretary-General

The Secretary-General spoke briefly to his report which had been distributed in advance in IAHR BULLETIN 15 (Special Congress Issue September 1990) pages 3-7. One of the most important features of recent efforts had been the geographical extension of IAHR activities and the new affiliations to be considered during the



current Congress. The report was received by the International Committee.

#### 5. Report by Treasurer

The Treasurer spoke briefly to his statement of accounts tabled as a separate document, indicating that the financial situation was stable and that income and expenditure had been in line with previous experience. The wish was expressed that statements in future should be expressed in a single currency if possible. The statement of accounts, which had been duly audited in the Netherlands, was accepted.

#### 6. Recommendation of amendments to the Constitution.

The Secretary-General requested consideration of the following amendment to the Constitution of the IAHR:

Replacement of the first sentence of article 4c by the following: "The Executive Committee is composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary-General, a Deputy Secretary-General, a Treasurer, and six other members."

He explained that the proposed amendment included Deputy Secretary-General as an office, following the informal practice of the past fifteen years, and that it increased the total number of members from ten to twelve thus allowing for wider representation of various regions of the world. It was agreed that this proposal should be recommended to the General Assembly by the International Committee together with those already agreed for recommendation in 1988 and since published in Numen.

#### 7. New affiliations.

It was agreed that the following new affiliations should be recommended to the General Assembly:

Asociacion Latinoamericana para los Estudios de las Religions (ALER)  
Chinese Association for the Study of Religions (CASR)  
Czechoslovak Association for the Study of Religion (CZASR)  
Indonesian Society for the Comparative Study of Religion  
Société Québécoise pour l'Étude de la Religion (SQER)  
Sovietskaya Assatsiatsiya Istorikov Religii (SAIR)

In connection with the above it was noted that an understanding had been reached that (i) ALER would not be in competition with the existing Mexican Association for the History of Religions and that (ii) SQER would share voting rights with the existing Canadian association on a one to one basis.

#### 8. Election of Executive Committee 1990-1995.

Nominations for the incoming Executive Committee had been invited in accordance with the rules in the Constitution and the following had been received (from the Nominations Committee and from others)



by the closing date: (for President) U. Bianchi, (for Vice-President) J. Leclant, W. Tyloch, Z. Werblowsky, (for Secretary-General) M. Pye, (for Treasurer) A. Geertz, H. van Lier, (for Deputy Secretary-General) L. Sullivan, and (as further members) R. Abubakre, P. Antes, M. Araki, L. Bäckman, Y. Gonzalez, S. Kim, M. Nowaczyk, D. Wiebe. Professor Tyloch's name was withdrawn from the list.

It was considered desirable to cast votes in secret ballot even for those offices which were not contested (this practice is usual in some countries, though not in others). To ensure the election of officers voting took place in two rounds, first the officers, then the further members. As a result the following Executive Committee was elected for the period 1990-1995:

President:	U. Bianchi (Rome)
Vice-Presidents:	J. Leclant (Paris) Z. Werblowsky (Jerusalem)
Secretary-General:	M. Pye (Marburg)
Treasurer:	A. Geertz (Aarhus)
Deputy Secretary-General:	L. Sullivan (Cambridge, Mass.)
Further members:	R. Abubakre (Ilorin) P. Antes (Hannover) M. Araki (Tsukuba) L. Bäckman (Stockholm) Y. Gonzales (Mexico City) D. Wiebe (Toronto)

The total number of votes cast for each position was 37. The designation of the office "Deputy Secretary-General" and the extension of the number of further members from 4 to 6 were conditional on the previously proposed constitutional amendment being formally accepted by the General Assembly. The results of the election will be presented to the General Assembly "for endorsement" (in line with the current constitution) or in the event of this phrase being withdrawn (as proposed) simply for information.

#### 9. Future conference locations.

The Secretary-General reported on various plans for future conference venues as discussed at the meeting of the Executive Committee. In particular, the International Committee welcomed the proposal for its next meeting to be held in Paris in 1993. It was explained that this repeats the pattern of holding a meeting of the International Committee three years after one major, quinquennial Congress and two years before the next, thus providing a convenient rhythm for the prosecution of business.

#### 10. XVII Congress (1995).

It was agreed that the Executive Committee would support the proposal to hold the XVII Congress in Mexico City as proposed by Professor Elio Masferrer Kan of the School of Anthropology, and



that an organising committee should be established including both Mexican and IAHR representation.

#### 11. Publications programme.

(i) Numen. The revised editorial arrangements for Numen discussed by the Executive Committee at its meeting in 1989 (Warsaw) and explained in IAHR BULLETIN 13 were recalled for the attention of the International Committee. It was reported that Professor Thomas Lawson had been appointed as a further new Editor by the Executive Committee in accordance with Constitution 2d. Appreciation was expressed for the work of Professors Heerma van Voss and Werblowsky whose editorial activity was now coming to an end. While for many years Professor Werblowsky (like Bleeker before him) had combined the office of Secretary-General with that of Editor of Numen this arrangement had come to an end. For this reason a new way of correlating editorial policy with the interests and expertise to be found in the IAHR had been sought. The most clear-cut solution (following many conversations with the parties involved, including the publishers) was to equate the Executive Committee (itself elected as a spectrum of international scholarship in the field) with the Editorial Board for the journal Numen, the official organ of the IAHR. Apart from creating the required identity of interest this would also make an annual meeting of the Editorial Board possible, i.e. on the same occasion of the meeting of the Executive Committee. This proposal met with approval and was agreed by the International Committee.

(ii) Science of Religion. It was reported that additional contributors of abstracts would be very welcome in various fields.

(iii) Revista Latinoamericana para los Estudios de las Religiones. It was reported that this proposed new publication would include an annual bibliographical issue which could attract a UNESCO subsidy. It was therefore agreed to provide seed funding from the IAHR, details to be arranged by the Treasurer.

(iv) Congress and conference proceedings. Attention was drawn to those proceedings still in print and to the guidelines agreed in Sydney for the publication of Congress proceedings. In answer to questions it was stated by the Secretary-General that no plans had been agreed to publish parts of the Congress proceedings separately, and that it was normal for the organising committee of the Congress to make the first proposal for publication.

#### 12. Language policy.

In view of the fact that there were currently no guidelines on languages to be used at conferences the Secretary-General advanced the proposal that, rather than adopting the four traditionally used in the journal Numen (English, French, German and Italian), it would normally be advisable to adopt three, namely English, French and the language of the country in which the Congress or conference



takes place. Thus the official languages of the next Congress in Mexico City would be English, French and Spanish. This policy was approved as a general guideline.

13. Legal incorporation and contractual obligations of IAHR.

It was pointed out that the IAHR, in spite of its long history, was nowhere legally incorporated and that therefore it was scarcely possible for its officers to enter into contractual obligations, for example with respect to its journal *Numen*. The Executive Committee was requested to look into this matter and take action as appropriate.

14. Any other business.

(i) Some complaints were made about the organisation of the Congress and it was proposed that in future strict rules should be established for the organisation of IAHR Congresses and conferences. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee.

(ii) Dr. T. Thomas, for the British Association for the Study of Religion proposed (a) an intensification of contacts between the associations in North-Western Europe and (b) a conference linking the associations of countries in the European Community to celebrate the closer integration due to take place in 1992. These proposals met with general welcome. Proposal (a) was referred to the representatives of the relevant associations, and it was pointed out that if proposal (b) took on specific form the question of overlap with the planned conference in Paris to host the International Committee (see above) should be considered.

Minutes compiled by Secretary-General (Michael Pye)

NOTE! THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ROME CONGRESS WILL BE CARRIED IN A FUTURE BULLETIN. IT MAY BE REPORTED IN SUMMARY THAT ALL OF THE PROPOSALS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM THE MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN MARBURG (1988) AND IN ROME (1990) WERE APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THIS INCLUDES IN PARTICULAR THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AND THE NEW AFFILIATIONS.



**HIIPA**  
**HIMPUNAN INDONESIA UNTUK ILMU PERBANDINGAN AGAMA**  
**[ INDONESIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF RELIGIONS (IACSR) ]**

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 Alamat Sekretariat: Fakultas Ushuluddin, IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta, Telp. 2156  
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**DAFTAR ANGGOTA**  
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Nomor:	N a m a	Asal Lembaga	Bidang Keahlian (a.l.)
1	Dr. Burhanuddin Daya	IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta	Sejarah Agama/Yudaisme
2	Drs. Abdurrahman	IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta	Buddhisme/Pemikiran Islam
3	Drs. Djam'annuri, MA	IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta	Perbandingan Agama/Hinduisme
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5	Drs. Siswanto Masruri, MA	IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta	Aliran Modern dalam Islam
6	Drs. Iskandar Zulkarnain	IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta	Metodologi Penelitian Agama
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9	Drs. Harith Abdoussalaam	IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta	Kristologi
10	Drs. Romdon, MA	IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta	Mistisisme
11	Dra. Alef Theria Wasyim, MA	IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta	Psikologi Agama
12	Drs. M. Damami	IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta	Aliran Kebatinan
13	Drs. A. Singgih Basuki	IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta	Agama Primitif
14	Drs. H. Farichin, MA	IAIN Sunan Gunung Djati, Bandung	Perbandingan Agama
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16	Drs. Kartam	IAIN Sunan Ampel, Surabaya	Kristologi
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25	Drs. H.M. Asy'ari, MA	IAIN Antasari, Banjarmasin	Pendidikan Islam
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29	Drs. Nasrul	IAIN Imam Bonjol, Padang	Perbandingan Agama
30	Drs. Saemang Katu	IAIN Alauddin, Ujungpandang	Perbandingan Agama
31	Drs. Mahmud Manan, MA	IAIN S. Thaha Saifuddin, Jambi	Sejarah Agama
32	Drs. Abdullah Salim, MA	Unissula, Semarang	Sejarah Kebudayaan Islam
33	Dra. H. Marliyah Ahsan	IAIN Alauddin, Ujungpandang	Ilmu Dakwah
34	Drs. Roswen Djafar	IAIN Syarief Hidayatullah, Jakarta	Perbandingan Agama
35	Drs. H. Amal Fathullah, MA	Institut Pendidikan Gontor	Perbandingan Agama
36	Dra. Marietta Susilawati	Universitas Atma Jaya, Yogyakarta	Kateketik
37	Drs. H. Musthofa Sonhadji, MA	IAIN Walisongo, Kudus	Pem. Modern dalam Islam
38	Drs. Noordiansyah	IAIN Antasari, Banjarmasin	Perbandingan Agama
39	Drs. H. Basri	Jam. Riyadlotul Mujahidin, Ponorogo	PAI dan Bahasa Arab
40	Dra. Ch. Suryanti	Universitas Atmajaya, Yogyakarta	Teologi Katolik
41	Drs. H. Musa Asy'arie	IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta	Filsafat Islam



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 Nomor:                    N a m a                    :                    Asal Lembaga                    :                    Bidang Keahlian (a.l.)  
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45	Drs. M. Darajat Ariyanto	Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta	Perbandingan Agama
46	Pdt. Weinata Sairin, MTH	Persatuan Gereja Indonesia (PGI)	Ilmu Agama-agama
47	Drs. M. Achmadi Anwar	IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta	Metodologi Riset
48	H. Ahsad Azhar Basyir, MA	Universitas Gadjah Mada	Filsafat Islam
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52	Drs. Mahmud Yusuf, MA	IAIN Raden Intan, Lampung	Perbandingan Agama
53	Drs. Syaamsul Arifin	IAIN Sunan Ampel, Surabaya	Sejarah Agama
54	Drs. Amrullah	IAIN Imam Bonjol, Padang	Perbandingan Agama
55	Dra. Nurhaedah Rahman	IAIN Alauddin, Ujungpandang	Perbandingan Agama
56	Drs. Moh. Riezam	IKIP Muhammadiyah, Yogyakarta	Pendidikan Islam
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61	Drs. Mujahid Abdul Manaf	IAIN Walisongo, Semarang	Perbandingan Agama
62	Pdt. Sukrisno H, MTh.	Univ. Kristen Duta Wacana, Yk.	Misiologi
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68	Drs. H. Ahmad Subandi	IAIN Sunan Gunung Djati, Bandung	Perbandingan Agama
69	Drs. H. Dadang Ahsad	IAIN Sunan Gunung Djati, Bandung	Perbandingan Agama
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84	Drs. Djamaluddin M. Idris	IAIN Parepare, Sulawesi	Kristologi
85	Drs. Mohd. Yusuf Otoluwa	Departemen Agama Prop. Sulut	Kristologi
86	Drs. Ridin Sofwan	IAIN Walisongo, Semarang	Aliran Kebatinan
87	Drs. Subairi HM	Kandepag Kab. OKU, Baturaja	Ilmu Dakwah
88	Drs. A. Hanief RH	IAIN Raden Intan, Lampung	Kristologi
89	Drs. Muhadi	IAIN Raden Intan, Lampung	Perbandingan Agama
90	Dra. Marlina Rauli	Seksi Kesejahteraan, Bandar Lampung	Pemikiran Islam
91	Drs. H.M. Sholeh	IAIN Raden Intan, Lampung	Kristologi
92	Drs. Ahsad	IAIN Raden Intan, Lampung	Perbandingan Agama
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96	Drs. Malikul Amjad	STIT, Bangka	Perbandingan Agama



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98	Drs. Adi Jamhari	IAIN Antasari, Banjarmasin	Kristologi
99	Drs. Muslikh Ahmad	Kanwil Departemen Agama Kalteng	Kristologi
100	Drs. H. Sjamsuddin Thohir	Kanwil Departemen Agama Lampung	Kristologi
101	Drs. A. Wahib Effendy	BKKBN, Surabaya	Agama Primitif
102	Drs. A. Husein Hurdy	Kanwil Departemen Agama Jatim	Perbandingan Agama
103	Drs. Said Agil Assegaf	IAIN Antasari, Banjarmasin	Pemikiran Islam
104	Dra. Sri Suhanjati	IAIN Walisongo, Semarang	Kristologi

#### SUSUNAN PENGURUS PUSAT

(SEMENTARA SAMPAI TERBENTUKNYA PENGURUS PUSAT HASIL SUSUNAN KONGRES I)

**PENASIHAT** : 1. Rektor IAIN Sunan Kalijaga  
2. Prof. Dr. H.A. Mukti Ali

**KETUA** : 1. Dr. Burhanuddin Daya  
2. Drs. Abdurrahman

**SEKRETARIS** : 1. Drs. Djam'annuri, MA  
2. Drs. H. Chumaidi Syarief Romas

**BENDAHARA** : 1. Drs. Siswanto Masruri, MA  
2. Drs. Iskandar Zulkarnain

**ANGGOTA** : 1. Dr. Simuh  
2. Drs. H. Syamsuddin Abdullah  
3. Drs. Harith Abdoussalaan  
4. Drs. Romdon, MA  
5. Dra. Alef Theria Wasyim, MA  
6. Drs. M. Damami  
7. Drs. A. Singgih Basuki



A Visit to the  
Soviet Association for the Science of Religion

by Armin W. Geertz

By invitation from Prof. Dr. of Philosophy Jurij B. Pishtshik and Prof. Dr. Sc. Leonid Ya. Smolyakov at the Academy of Social Sciences in Moscow, Peter Antes and I visited the new Soviet Association in January of this year and took part in the first General Assembly of the Soviet Association for the Science of Religion in order to speak about the activities of the IAHR and to meet with the sponsors of the IAHR regional conference to be held in Leningrad in 1994.

We enjoyed the fine hospitality and comfort of the Hotel Yugo-Zapad, which is part of the enormous building complex housing the Academy of Social Sciences. Chauffeured vehicles were placed at our disposal, as well as talented translators and guides. Our excursions into Moscow, however, were somewhat restricted because of the extreme temperatures which remained between minus 24 and minus 30 degrees centigrade. But the warmth of Soviet hospitality more than made up for the Siberian fridity.

At the General Assembly of the Soviet Association for the Science of Religion, which was attended by about 50 people, the President of the SASR was elected. He is the 84 year old Prof. Dr. of History, Alexei I. Klibanov, a specialist in Russian Orthodox history who has spent several years in prison for his views. His election is, therefore, symbolic of the times. He was very pleased to have us witness their General Assembly, and he agreed with the characterizations which Peter Antes and I gave of the goals of the history of religions. He also remarked that the initiative shown by the Institute of Scientific Atheism in establishing the SASR was commendable and that their interest in increasing cooperation between the different branches of the academic community was promising.

Besides the president, there are two vice-presidents: Prof. Dr. of Philosophy and Vice-director of the Institute of Philosophy, Lev N. Mitrochin and Jaroslav N. Schapov of the Institute of the History of the USSR of the Soviet Academy of the USSR; there are three secretaries: Sergei V. Deriugin at the Institute



of Scientific Atheism, Prof. Dr. of History at the Institute of Scientific Atheism, Dmitrii V. Mikulskii, and Prof. Dr. of Philosophy Vera P. Mazalova at the same institute; and the treasurer is Jurij B. Pishtshik.

The new organization faces important problems for the future. One of these problems is to ensure that its membership reflects not only the various branches of Soviet science and education, but also to attract former dissidents (some of whom have been imprisoned) to join them as well. This has of course been difficult for the Institute of Scientific Atheism because of its former ideological stance. But it should be noted that all of the branches of education have accommodated party ideology and therefore are presently confronted with the need to reevaluate their position both nationally and internationally. Today, the younger generation is trying to change the goals, activities, and even the names (to the History of Religion) in order to participate in the growing democratization. The Soviet Association for the Science of Religion has been established, among other things, in order to facilitate the coordination of all those who are interested in pursuing the academic study of religion.

The growing interest in, and freedom of, religion in the Soviet Union has also led to a great deal of interest in initiating dialogue between Church and State. The problem is to reconcile communist atheism with dialogue, and here it seems that the Soviets consider the History of Religions to be a legitimate way of entering into such a dialogue. Earlier attempts have been made, such as the establishment of the Association of Secular Culture which arranged round-table conferences for the scientific organizations and the churches. But it was evidently too rigid, and so the IAHR was chosen as a more honorable solution to the many needs of the Soviet situation. As an aside, we visited the Imam-khatib of the Moscow Jami Mosque, Ravil Gainutdinov, who said that he was very happy to learn that organizations such as ours existed, since other scientific organizations have not treated them very well in the past.

The IAHR newsbulletins will appear in the new journal called "Disput". As the enclosed announcement indicates, it is not the



organ of the SASR, but it is a forum for the many interest groups mentioned above. The editors of the journal are Prof. Pishtshik and Sergei V. Deriugin. The editors informed us that they will write an English digest at the end of each annual volume, which they hope will attract Western subscribers (a yearly subscription will cost around US\$3-4). They also would like to elicit manuscripts from Western scholars which they will publish in Russian in the journal.

Concerning the Regional Conference in Leningrad in 1994, 15 scholars will be invited from the West and about 50 participants from the Soviet Union itself. They offer a 5-star hotel (probably Hotel Europa which is presently being renovated along with the many other cultural buildings of Leningrad presently under renovation), simultaneous translation, cultural events, and the meeting of personal interests. The theme of the conference will be "The Religions of the Orient through the Eyes of the West."

In Leningrad, I was under the excellent care and guidance of Dr. of Philosophy at the Museum of the History of Religion, Anne Mary Shakhnovitch. I was given a guided tour of the Museum of the History of Religion which is housed in the former Kazan Cathedral.

I was impressed with the museum, not only by its impressive surroundings, but also by the various exhibits, many of which were interestingly put together and containing interesting objects. The museum has its own publishing house which puts out about 4 books a year. They are, by the way, interested in receiving manuscripts also by Westerners in order to meet the increasingly growing needs of especially Soviet youth to learn about religion.

The conference will be held in the center of Leningrad close to the Hermitage along the shores of the Neva River. I think that it will be a very pleasureable experience.

A.G.





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Hacia la formación de nuevos investigadores

# LA COMPLUTENSE CREARA UN INSTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DE CIENCIAS DE LA RELIGION

La puesta en marcha de un Instituto de Ciencias de la Religión fue anunciada por el doctor Villalpos, rector de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid, en la clausura del Congreso Internacional sobre los Manuscritos del Mar Muerto, organizado por esta universidad (18-21/3/91). El objetivo del instituto será la investigación científica y la docencia universitaria sobre la religión y las religiones.

**C**ONCEBIDO para postgraduados, estos estudios tendrán una duración de dos cursos con una programación de nivel de doctorado, a cuyo final podrá obtenerse el título de maestro universitario en Ciencias de la Religión. La institución de este centro universitario pretende además el aprovechamiento de tantos trabajos realizados en este campo desde el ámbito personal en España y la formación de nuevos investigadores en estas disciplinas.

## DIALOGO INTERDISCIPLINAR Y EQUILIBRIO FE-CIENCIA

A la vez, el centro cultivará especialmente el diálogo interdisciplinar, ineludible en el terreno de las religiones comparadas, por su misma naturaleza y dado que en estas investigaciones se aglutinan muy diversas materias: sociología, psicología, filosofía, teología... De igual manera el instituto exigirá el conocimiento de las lenguas propias de las religiones que se estudien, sin olvidar las lenguas antiguas de las religiones de Asia.

Es muy posible que los programas presenten estos aspectos generales y disciplinas: Antropología de la religión, Sociología de la religión, Hermenéutica de la simbología y mitología religiosa, Fenomenología de la religión, Filosofía de la religión, Historia de las religiones, Metodología de la ciencia de las religiones, Estudio de la teología y desarrollo de las teologías.

El instituto tendrá como órgano de gobierno un consejo y un director nombrado, mientras no exista el consejo, por el rector de la Universidad Complutense. El director ejercerá todas las competencias inherentes a su cargo y estará asistido por un secretario del instituto.



## INCORPORACION A UNA LARGA TRADICION UNIVERSITARIA

Por fin España va a contar con un centro de estudios de la religión. En 1986, el *Religions Periodicals Directory* subrayaba la escasez de la participación española en estos estudios. El año pasado varios países del Este se inscribían ya como miembros de la Sociedad Internacional de Historia de las Religiones, mientras España permanece todavía sin ninguna representación en este organismo.

Una vez más, el rector Villalpos, su equipo y algunos otros intelectuales van a tener un importante acierto al integrar en la universidad estudios ya vinculados desde finales del siglo pasado en la tradic-

ción universitaria de muchos países de Europa, Norteamérica e incluso hispanoamérica. Francia creó en 1879 una cátedra de estos estudios, desarrollando luego una amplia investigación en la sección V de L'École Pratique de Hautes Etudes. Ahora mismo en esta nación vecina, cuando nosotros andamos debatiendo la enseñanza de la religión en la escuela, intelectuales franceses y su sociedad laica promueven el estudio de las religiones desde la educación general básica.

Pero no sólo a finales del siglo pasado y principios de éste con la celebración en Estocolmo del Primer Congreso sobre «Ciencias de la Religión» en 1897, la creación de 1908 de la International Association for the History of Religions o la publicación de la Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics, sino en las décadas de los años 60 y 70 de nuestro siglo ha tenido lugar una gran eclosión de los estudios de la fenomenología e historia comparada de las religiones en multitud de centros de investigación y docencia de muchas universidades.

## GRAN CONTRIBUCION AL HOMBRE Y A LO SOCIAL

¿Por qué todo esto? Porque es sabido que el estudio de las religiones ayuda a conocer la naturaleza y el desarrollo histórico de las mismas, desde donde se llega a la comprensión y el profundo conocimiento del hombre, rindiendo una notable contribución social. Incluso varios congresos internacionales como «Religion Economics and Social Thought», en Vancouver 1986; «Religion and the Economic Order», en Chicago 1986; «Women, Religion and Social Change», en la Universidad de Nueva York 1985, y otros, han descubierto el valor de la religión para el hombre de nuestros días.

Por otra parte, como fe y ética desde la perspectiva religiosa presentan al hombre interpelado desde lo trascendente y desde sí mismo, supone una indiscutible ayuda para el arreglo de muchos problemas sociales, políticos, económicos e intelectuales planteados hoy por el ser humano.

Estos y otros son, sin duda, los motivos que han llevado al rector de la Universidad Complutense y a su Junta de Gobierno a dar en enero pasado el visto bueno a este proyecto, probablemente en marcha para el curso próximo. ■

José Luis DIEZ



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